

Bellahouston Academy Parent Council Minutes

Annual General Meeting
Monday 16 September 2024
Bellahouston Academy

Attendees: Vanessa Redmond (Chair), Sam Miller, Barry Mochan, Carol Cutler, Loredana Chirala, Deka Elmi, Bushra Sajjad, Syma Shah
Apologies: Allana Kelly, Angela Bewick

Agenda

NB The AGM was preceded by a Q&A with Mr Mochan (slides attached and notes at the end of the AGM minutes), that replaced the standing item of the Headteachers report to the AGM.

1. Election of Office Bearers

Vanessa Redmond was elected as Chair (nominated by Syma Shah, seconded by Sam Miller). Sam Miller was elected as Treasurer (nominated by Vanessa Redmond, seconded by Syma Shah). Syma Shah was elected as Secretary (nominated by Sam Miller, seconded by Syma Shah).

2. Election of Parent Council members

Bushra Sajjad was elected to the Parent Council. Frances Brown was elected as a co-opted member. Given that the Parent Council constitution requires a minimum of five parents, a further election of members will be held at the next Parent Council meeting.

3. Parent Council report (Vanessa Redmond)

VR thanks the staff members who had joined meetings and supported the Parent Council, Ms Brown for her support with practical arrangements and parents and carers who have joined meetings or otherwise shared ideas.

VR summarised highlights of the Parent Council in the previous session:

- Met at least termly, and build up an ongoing constructive dialogue with the school
- Provided feedback on a number of school priorities, such as the bullying and harassment policy, the school improvement plan.
- Attended parent consultation evenings to raise awareness of the parent council and recruit members
- Joined interviews for DHT interviews
- Had initial discussions around fundraising opportunities to support the school.
- Minutes and other communication being shared regularly through the school website, a mailing list set up and a gmail account up and running.

There were no questions.

4. Treasurer report (Sam Miller)

Finances

Current balance: £376.60

Income: £400 (GCC funding)

Expenditure: 2 x £11.70 (Lets for Aug and Sep PC meetings)

Given the limited transactions, the accounts have not been independently audited, but receipts are available for expenditure.

Historical Account

Treasurers account In the name of Bellahouston Academy School Board, with letters addressed to Mr Yousaf. Held at Glasgow Govan branch of Bank of Scotland.

Current balance: £2021.21

Account inactive for at least three years.

Have been unable to access funds due to no knowledge of account signatories.

Tried via Bank of Scotland and Glasgow City Council.

New Account

Have opened new account with Bank of Scotland in the name of Bellahouston Academy Parent Council.

Named signatories are: Sam Miller (Treasurer), Vanessa Redmond (Chair), Frances Brown (Senior Clerical Assistant in School Office).

Internet banking enabled with online payments and Debit card.

5. Parent Council constitution

The Parent Council constitution was agreed as attached.

6. Calendar of meetings for 24/25

It was agreed that meetings would continue to be in person on Mondays. Alongside this, it was agreed that the Parent Council would host a termly Q&A with Mr Mochan. VR agreed to share suggested dates in writing following the meeting (complete - dates below).

Dates for this session:

Monday 21st October 6 -7.30

Monday 25th November 6 - 7.30

Monday 13th January 6 - 7.30

Monday 3rd March 6 - 7.30

Monday 12th May 6 - 7.30

7. Focus for the meetings in 24/25

VR suggested initial priorities of:

- Identifying ways to engage with more of the parent/carers body
- Fundraising
- Supporting the school's efforts towards Developing the Young Workforce

BM asked for suggestions for workshops/areas the PC would welcome the school to present on (ACTION: ALL). There was support for a workshop looking at pedagogy, to build parent/carers understanding of what a good lesson should look like. There will also be

opportunity to discuss the consultation in respect of options for the school day, and PEF funding. A proposal for the year's sessions will be circulated in due course.

8. AOB

None raised.

Q&A with Mr Mochan

Mr Mochan presented the attached slides setting out the priorities for this session, and ideas for how parents and carers can support the school and their young people.

Q: What is the model of exams at the school?

A: Mr Mochan explained that the school does not enter young people for Nat 4, and the first summative exams for most pupils are the National 5s from end of 4th year. Options for the National 5s are made at the end of S2, but S3 continues to be part of the Broad General Education, with the Senior Phase starting in S4. (See SQA website for general information on the National qualifications <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/97077.html>).

Q: Is it possible to update the app as well as the school website when making updates?

A: Yes this will be looked at as well to make sure information is consistent.

Q: How can parents be kept abreast of issues like teacher absences?

A: The Parent Council is one fora where things like this can be discussed. The school do try and keep parents updated where there is a large change/gap; and the course information teachers are preparing should help build parents and carers understanding of what they should expect their young person to be experiencing in the different classes. Do always contact the school, for example via their house team, if you have specific questions.

Q: How is the new phone policy going?

A: New policy (OPENS) being applied consistently and young people were largely supportive. A very small number of phones had been confiscated but overall the new policy was going well.

Q: Would it be possible to have a Q&A with the campus cop?

A: BM will see if this is possible. The school are also looking to have an 'introduce a partner' section as part of the new termly newsletter, so this could also be an opportunity to raise awareness of the campus cop's work.

Q: Can the school raise awareness of apprenticeships as part of Developing the Young Workforce?

A: Yes absolutely.